

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

PENDING CLAIMS

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement of said slider relative to said zipper, and ~~an enclosed~~ a header enclosing said zipper and said slider, wherein said ~~enclosed~~ header comprises first and second side edges and first and second walls each extending from said first side edge to said second side edge, said first side edge comprising a first tear notch formed therein, and said first wall of said ~~enclosed~~ header comprising a first line of weakness having a first portion extending across said header, wherein said first portion of said first line of weakness lies in a region having an upper boundary at an elevation which is lower than a top of said slider, said region being lower than an elevation of said first tear notch, and said first wall of said header further comprising a first slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing a first elevation near an elevation of said first tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said first portion of said first line of weakness, said first slit being defined in said first header wall by a pair of mutually parallel internal edges of equal length and separated by substantially no gap.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim [[2,]] 1, wherein said first slit is inclined at an angle in a range of 30 to 90 degrees relative to a line of said zipper, said lower point of said first slit being further away from the closest one of said first and second side edges

than is said upper point of said first slit.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim [[2,]] 1, wherein said first tear notch has an elevation which is higher than said top of said slider.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim [[2,]] 1, wherein said second side edge of said ~~enclosed~~ header comprises a second tear notch, and said first wall of said ~~enclosed~~ header further comprises a second slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing a first elevation near an elevation of said second tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said first portion of said first line of weakness.

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim [[2,]] 1, wherein said second wall of said ~~enclosed~~ header comprises:

a second line of weakness having a portion extending across said header, said portion of said second line of weakness lying in a region having an upper boundary at an elevation which is lower than said top of said slider, and

a second slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing a first elevation near an elevation of said first tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said portion of said second line of weakness.

Claim 7 (Original): The package as recited in claim 6, wherein said first and second lines of weakness are overlapping.

Claim 8 (Original): The package as recited in claim 6, wherein said first and second slits are overlapping.

Claim 9 (Original): The package as recited in claim 5, wherein lower end points of said first and second slits are

closer together than are upper end points of said first and second slits.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~enclosed~~ header further comprises a seal for sealing said first and second walls together.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~enclosed~~ header is integrally formed with said receptacle.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~enclosed~~ header comprises a folded piece, said first and second walls of said folded piece being sealed to said receptacle.

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Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement of said slider relative to said zipper, and ~~an enclosed~~ a header enclosing said zipper and said slider, wherein said ~~enclosed~~ header comprises first and second side edges and first and second walls each extending from said first side edge to said second side edge, said first side edge comprises a first tear notch, and said first wall comprises a first line of weakness extending across said header in a region lower than an elevation of said first tear notch and a first slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing a first elevation near an elevation of said first tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said first line of weakness, said first slit being defined in said first header wall by a pair of mutually parallel internal edges of equal length and separated by substantially no gap.

Claim 14 (Original): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said second side edge comprises a second tear notch formed therein, and said first wall further comprises a second slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing a first elevation near an elevation of said second tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said first line of weakness.

Claim 15 (Original): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said first tear notch is located at an elevation higher than a top of said slider.

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Claim 16 (Original): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said first fastener strip comprises a first interlockable member and said second fastener strip comprises a second interlockable member, said first line of weakness being located in a region which is lower than said first and second interlockable members.

Claim 17 (Original): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said second wall comprises a second line of weakness extending across said header in a region lower than said elevation of said first tear notch and a second slit traversing a range of elevations encompassing a first elevation near an elevation of said first tear notch and a second elevation near an elevation of said second line of weakness.

Claim 18 (Original): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said first slit is inclined at an angle in a range of 30 to 90 degrees relative to a line of said zipper, said lower point being further away from the closest one of said first and second side edges than is said upper point of said first slit.

Claim 19 (Original): The package as recited in claim 17, wherein said first and second lines of weakness are

overlapping.

Claim 20 (Original): The package as recited in claim 17, wherein said first and second slits are overlapping.

Claim 21 (Original): The package as recited in claim 14, wherein lower end points of said first and second slits are closer together than are upper end points of said first and second slits.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said ~~enclosed~~ header is integrally formed with said receptacle.

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Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 13, wherein said ~~enclosed~~ header comprises a folded piece, said first and second walls of said folded piece being sealed to said receptacle.

Claims 24-32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement of said slider relative to said zipper, and ~~an enclosed~~ header enclosing said zipper and said slider, wherein said ~~enclosed~~ header comprises first and second side edges and first and second walls each extending from said first side edge to said second side edge, said first side edge comprises a first tear notch, and said first wall comprises a first line of weakness extending generally laterally across said header in a region lower than an elevation of said first tear notch and a second line of weakness traversing a range of elevations encompassing a first elevation near an elevation of said first tear notch

and a second elevation near an elevation of said first line of weakness.

Claims 34-40 (Canceled).

Claim 41 (Original): A package comprising an enclosure and a slider-operated zipper that separates an internal volume of said enclosure into a header space and a product space, wherein a header portion of said enclosure encloses said header space, said header portion comprising first and second header walls joined at first and second side edges, said first header wall comprising a first line of weakness that begins at or near said first side edge at a first elevation above a top edge of said zipper and continues to a second elevation below a top edge of said zipper.

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Claim 42 (Original): The package as recited in claim 41, wherein said second header wall comprises a second line of weakness that begins at or near said first side edge at said first elevation and continues to said second elevation.

Claim 43 (Original): The package as recited in claim 41, wherein said first line of weakness further continues from said second elevation to a point at or near said second side edge and at a third elevation.

Claim 44 (Original): The package as recited in claim 43, wherein said second header wall comprises a second line of weakness that begins at or near said first side edge at said first elevation, continues to said second elevation, and further continues from said second elevation to a point at or near said second side edge and at said third elevation.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim [[41,]] 43, wherein said third elevation is substantially the same as said first elevation.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 41, wherein said first line of weakness comprises a scoreline ~~is formed by laser scoring.~~

Claim 47 (Original): The package as recited in claim 41, further comprising a tear notch formed in said first side edge of said header portion of said enclosure, said tear notch terminating at an elevation substantially equal to said first elevation.

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Claim 48 (Previously Presented): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement of said slider relative to said zipper, and a header covering said zipper and said slider, wherein said header comprises first and second header walls each extending from a first side edge to a second side edge, and said first header wall comprises a tear notch at a first elevation and a first line of weakness that extends generally horizontally across at least a portion of said header at a second elevation lower than said first elevation.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 48, wherein said first header wall further comprises a slit that traverses a range of elevations from a vicinity of said first elevation to a vicinity of a portion of said first line of weakness, said slit being defined in said first header wall by a pair of mutually parallel internal edges of equal length and separated by substantially no gap.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 48, wherein said first header wall further comprises a second line of weakness that traverses a range of elevations from a vicinity of said first elevation to a

vicinity of a portion of said first line of weakness.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 48, wherein said first and second header walls are connected by a fold.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 48, wherein said first and second header walls are sealed together.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 48, wherein said first and second header walls are respectively joined to opposing walls of said receptacle.

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Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 48, wherein said first and second header walls are respectively integrally formed with opposing walls of said receptacle.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 48, wherein said first elevation is above a top of said slider and said second elevation is below a bottom of said slider.

Claim 56 (New): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement of said slider relative to said zipper, and an header enclosing said zipper and said slider, wherein said header comprises first and second side edges and first and second walls each extending from said first side edge to said second side edge, said first side edge comprising a tear notch formed therein at a first elevation higher than a top of said slider, and said first wall of said



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enclosed header comprising a line of weakness that starts in the vicinity of said tear notch, descends to a second elevation lower than said top of said slider, and extends generally across a portion of said header at said second elevation.

g<sup>n</sup> Claim 57. (New): The package as recited in claim 56, wherein said line of weakness then ascends from said second elevation to a third elevation higher than said top of said slider in the vicinity of said second side edge.

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